

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report
FOR 1907,

OF THE

VITAL STATISTICS,

SANITARY WORK, &c.,

By CLARENCE BEESLEY,

D.P.H. Camb., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON:

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EXMOUTH,

January 25th, 1908.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my duties as Medical Officer of Health, I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1907.

The substance of the Report has been arranged under the same headings as in previous Reports, this method facilitating reference and comparison by yourselves, and also by the Local Government Board and Devon County Council, to whom copies are sent, and who derive their knowledge of the various "rates" and general condition of Districts during the year from the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

In the following pages will be found the usual tabulated information concerning the number and causes of the deaths registered, the number of births, an account of Infectious Diseases reported and the means taken for preventing their dissemination, together with the mode of sewage disposal and the quality and quantity of the water supply, and other matters of interest, from a sanitary point of view, which have engaged your attention during the year. The usual five tables of statistical information, supplied for the use of the Local Government Board, will be found at the end of the Report, and great care has been taken to render them accurate. A special table, dealing with the work done in connection with the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, is appended, and also the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Table 1. Shows the vital statistics for the whole District during 1907 as well as for the previous ten years, with averages of the same.

Table 2. Is inapplicable to your district and has been disregarded.

Table 3. Deals with the number and nature of Notifiable Infectious Diseases, classified according to age.

Table 4. Indicates the causes of, and ages at, death during the year.

Table 5. Shows the causes and ages at death which have occurred amongst children under one year of age (Infant Mortality).

I. GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

The population of Budleigh Salterton has been estimated at 2,024 persons, for the purpose of compiling the usual tables of statistics; the Census of 1901 showed that there were 1,883 inhabitants.

The total number of deaths registered numbered 31 (the same number as last year), 14 were males and 17 females, producing a death rate of 15.3 per 1,000, as compared with 15.4 in 1906, and for the last ten years 16.3. The quarterly returns are shown thus:—

	Jan., Feb., March.	April, May, June.	July, August, September.	Oct., Nov., December.
Males	3	3	3	5
Females	10	2	3	2
Total per quarter	13	5	6	7

In accordance with what might be expected when the age-distribution of the District is taken into consideration, a large proportion of the deaths occurred at 65 years and upwards, thus:—

65 and under 70	..	..	2
70 „ „ 80	..	..	7
80 „ „ 90	..	..	4
90 upwards	..	..	0
			Total 13

The average age of these 13 persons at death (8 of whom were females) was 75.4 years.

TABLE SHOWING AGES AT WHICH DEATH
TOOK PLACE.

Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 and under 65.	65 upward.
Nil.	4	1	Nil.	13	13

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE. For the second year in succession I am pleased to report that there has been no death from any of the diseases classed as Zymotic, and which include Smallpox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever (Typhus, Continued or Enteric) and Diarrhœa. The presence of this group of diseases is usually looked upon as due to some defect in sanitation, and the fact of no death having occurred from any of them is a very good advertisement for the healthiness of your District. Of course there are other Zymotic diseases, but the above are the "seven principal Zymotic diseases," and they form the basis upon which the "Zymotic death rate" is calculated.

INFANT MORTALITY. This is a term used to indicate the number of children under one year of age dying in any community. No deaths at this age took place last year, which is an extremely satisfactory state of affairs, for during the last ten years on an average 2.1 children have died each year, producing an infant mortality rate of 76.4 per 1,000 births. The causes of infant mortality are very numerous, and include epidemics of Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, etc., improper feeding (usually through ignorance), and perhaps wilful neglect in some instances. So that, from a consideration of these causes, we may legitimately congratulate ourselves at being able to record an "infant mortality rate" of nil.

TABLE SHOWING POPULATION, BIRTHS, DEATHS
AND DEATH RATES FROM CERTAIN DISEASES.

Population, 1907.	Births per 1,000.	Deaths per 1,000.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Infant Mortality.	Phthisis.	Heart Disease.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Nervous System.
2,024	14.3	15.3	Nil.	Nil.	1.9	4.4	Nil.	1.4	1.9

On comparing this table with last year's it will be observed that Heart Disease again heads the list as a cause of death. Deaths from Cancer have slightly increased, whilst those due to Phthisis have diminished. For the fourth year in succession no deaths from any of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases have been registered, these diseases being Smallpox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, Scarlet Fever, Typhus, Enteric, Relapsing Fever, Continued Fever, Puerperal Fever and Chicken Pox. This is a very satisfactory statement to be able to report and speaks well for the salubrity and healthiness of the District, and much credit also is due to the whole Sanitary Staff, for the cleaner a District is kept and the more carefully disinfection is carried out after illness, the less likelihood is there of other cases arising, with their consequent danger both to the patient and the public.

BIRTHS. 29 births were registered during the year, 17 being males and 12 females, giving a birth rate of 14.3. Last year it was 16.2, and the average for the last ten years was 14.7. This is an extremely low rate, and much below the average for the whole country. Many causes are operating to produce a diminished birth rate, and the same diminution is observed amongst other nations. A few of these causes have been set out in previous Reports, and it is only necessary to state here that the "age-distribution" which obtains in your district is perhaps the chief factor.

II. AREA AND DENSITY OF POPULATION.

The total area of the District is 840 acres, and the number of persons per acre 2.4. The number of inhabited houses is approximately 486, and the average number of persons per house 4.2.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

During the year a very important improvement has been satisfactorily carried out, viz., the supply of pure filtered water to the whole of the town from the Sherbrook Reservoir. The additional works in connection with this scheme were opened in April, several Members of the Council being present. The power for working the pumps is derived from a "Tangye" oil engine capable of being worked up to $10\frac{1}{2}$ B.H.P., and the quantity of water delivered at the Sherbrook Reservoir is between 70 and 80 gallons per minute. The source of water is drawn from the head of a natural spring, and not from the Kersbrook Mill Pond, and is conveyed to Sherbrook by a rising main 2,652 yards long. The plans, sections, estimates, etc., were prepared by Mr. Gill, your Surveyor, and the whole of the work carried out under his supervision with the greatest success.

The water supplied to the District has been analysed twice during the year. With regard to the Sherbrook sample, the Analyst reports, "there is a small increase in the amount of hardness, it is within the limits depending on rainfall. In other respects the analytical results exhibit no variation. Its soft character and general purity remain unaltered, and the quality is in all respects satisfactory." Referring to the sample from Kersbrook the same authority states, "the results of analysis of this water are in close agreement with previous analyses. The character and quantity of saline components remain uniform, and all the analytical data indicate a satisfactory state of organic purity."

ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIED TO THE DISTRICT IN GRAINS PER GALLON.

	SHERBROOK.	KERSBROOK.
Mineral Matter ..	14·7	21·7
Total Solid Residue ..	15·1	22·0
Chlorides (as Chlorine) ..	2·75	2·3
Temporary Hardness ..	5·2	12·4
Permanent „ ..	2·25	2·05
Total „ ..	7·45	14·45
Nitrites ..	·0	·0
Nitrates ..	·32	·34
Saline Ammonia ..	·0004	·0005
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	·002	·001
Poisonous Metals ..	absent	absent

From the remarks of the Analyst given above, together with the table of the analyses of the two waters, it will be seen that you have a very pure water supply to the District, which is a factor of the highest importance from a public health point of view. Leakages, whether accidental or due to negligence, have been looked for, and whenever found promptly remedied.

My attention was drawn to the condition of the water supplied from a well to some cottages at the bottom of Knowle Hill. A sample of the water drawn from the well in my presence showed very gross impurities, and on analysis it was found to be quite unfit for consumption. You, therefore, very properly ordered the well to be closed, which was done, and I understand the owner of the property is negotiating with the Exmouth Water Company for a supply from their main.

One point in connection with the water supply to the District might be mentioned, viz., the exclusion of water from Sherbrook during heavy rains (which tend to render it turbid) and the substitution of the Kersbrook water. This is a decidedly wise step, as muddy water does not inspire confidence amongst the consumers and might possibly be risky.

IV. CONDITION OF HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT.

During the year no cases of overcrowding or of serious sanitary defects have come or been brought under my notice. Building operations have been exceptionally brisk, and the class of house erected has been quite above the average. In all cases the provisions of the Bye-Laws have been complied with, both as regards the structure of the buildings, the presence of adequate air space, and the efficiency of the drainage system, &c.

In last year's Report attention was drawn to the need for larger Schools. There can be no question that the present School accommodation is insufficient for the number of scholars attending, and there is plenty of room for improvement in the internal arrangement of the rooms and fittings, when they are compared with those of an up-to-date modern Board School. It is obvious to everybody that the ventilation, lighting, heating, etc., of rooms in which a large number of children spend several hours a day should be as perfect as modern skill in these various departments can make them.

V. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year the District was singularly free from Notifiable Infectious Diseases. There were altogether four cases of Scarlatina, none of which were fatal. They occurred in children ranging from 5 to 14 years of age. One case was sent from Ottery three weeks after the onset of the disease. As the patient was still in the infectious stage he was removed at once to an isolated house in the country, and no other cases arose from this one. Two other cases occurred in the same house. The first of these was removed to the Exeter Sanatorium and detained until all fear of infection had presumably passed away. But when the patient was discharged another child in the same house contracted the disease, and the parents refused to allow this child to be removed. The child was carefully isolated at home and no other cases were reported. Two very suspicious cases of sore throat were reported to me from the Granary. At first Diphtheria was suspected, and

all precautions against spread were taken. The fear proved to be groundless, however, as swabs taken from the throats and examined by a competent Bacteriologist revealed no trace of the causative micro-organism. When I visited the premises the occupiers complained of the drains smelling badly at times, and these smells, by producing a lowered vitality, might have played some part in causing the severe throat affection of the two children.

The usual preventive measures are taken when any outbreak of Infectious Disease occurs. They comprise:—

- (a) Gratuitous bacteriological examination in suspected cases.
- (b) Thorough disinfection of premises with Formalin after recovery, or after removal to Sanatorium.
- (c) Destruction of clothing, bedding, etc., when thought necessary.
- (d) Visits of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector as soon as notification has been received.
- (e) Exclusion of children from School, from infected premises.

There was a rather serious outbreak of Measles in the Summer, necessitating closure of the Schools for some time. Fortunately there were no deaths. The disease is not notifiable in your District. There were no cases of Typhoid Fever notified during the year, which is an excellent advertisement for a place like Budleigh Salterton, which caters for visitors during the Summer months, and, from what I heard and saw, not in vain.

The storage and distribution of the MILK SUPPLY of a District is of supreme importance, since many diseases owe their origin and spread to contaminated milk. A cow should be treated precisely in the same manner as a well-groomed horse, and the milking should be done with strict precautions against pollution, for it is during this operation that great liability to the entrance of dangerous extraneous matter occurs. The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were inspected during the year, and in only one instance was any structural alteration recommended, and this was carried out to the

Surveyor's satisfaction. In future regular inspections of these premises will be made every three months, and their condition reported to you.

VI. SEWERAGE AND SCAVENGING.

No complaints have been received with regard to the system of house-refuse removal which is in operation in the District. The refuse is collected and removed twice a week, and a new depôt for its reception has been rented by your Council.

That perennial question, viz., the cheapest and most efficient method of sewage disposal, still remains unanswered. A considerable sum of money has now been spent in obtaining opinions and details of schemes, that of the late Mr. Strachan being perhaps the best, though somewhat expensive. It is a question which cannot be shelved indefinitely, and it is to be hoped that the Council will be able to come to some agreement upon a matter which is admittedly of vital importance to a place like Budleigh Salterton, if it is to maintain its present excellent reputation.

VII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

The provisions of this Act have been complied with as far as they apply to this District, where there are no Factories and only a few Workshops and Workplaces.

On the whole, therefore, I think the condition of the District, from a sanitary point of view, has been distinctly satisfactory during 1907. There have been no deaths from any of the Zymotic Diseases, and only four cases of Scarlatina, none of which were fatal. It is to be hoped that the record of 1908 will not be worse than that of 1907, and if it is not, then we shall have every reason to be satisfied with the result of our efforts to combat all causes inimical to the health of the Public.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CLARENCE BEESLEY, M.O.H.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1907 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.					
1897	1770	30	16.9	8	266.5	32	18.0	..	..	..	32	18.0
1898	1770	26	14.1	1	38.5	34	19.2	..	..	..	34	19.2
1899	1880	20	11.1	2	100.0	34	18.8	..	..	..	34	18.8
1900	1883	18	10.0	2	111.1	26	14.4	..	..	..	26	14.4
1901	1885	23	12.2	1	43.4	34	18.0	..	..	..	34	18.0
1902	1897	25	13.1	0	0.0	21	11.0	1	..	..	21	11.0
1903	1910	34	17.8	3	88.2	28	14.6	3	..	..	28	14.6
1904	1947	34	17.0	1	29.4	32	16.4	2	..	..	32	16.4
1905	1987	35	18.6	2	56.7	35	17.6	5	..	..	35	17.6
1906	2001	33	16.2	1	30.3	31	15.4	3	..	..	31	15.4
Averages for years 1897-1906.	1893	27.8	14.7	2.1	76.4	30.7	16.3	1.4	..	..	30.7	16.3
1907	2024	29	14.3	Nil.	0.0	31	15.3	1	..	..	31	15.3

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.
Small-pox .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	4	..	..	4	..	..	..
Typhus fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	4	..	..	4	..	..	..

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic influenza ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Other tubercular di- seases	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Cancer, malignant di- sease	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Bronchitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pleurisy .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Alcoholism .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases	9	..	..	..	2	3	4	..
Accidents	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Suicides .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old age	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Cerebral diseases ..	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Convulsions	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes ..	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	1
All causes	31	..	4	1	2	11	13	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

[illegible]

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOME WORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	...	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	8	...	...
Workplaces	2	...	...
Total	10	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Ref rred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness
Want of ventilation
Overcrowding
Want of drainage of floors
Other nuisances
Sanitary accommodation	{ insufficient ... ..	...	...	...
		{ unsuitable or defective	Nil.	...
		{ not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...
<i>Offences under Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehou e (s. 101)
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)
Other offences
Total